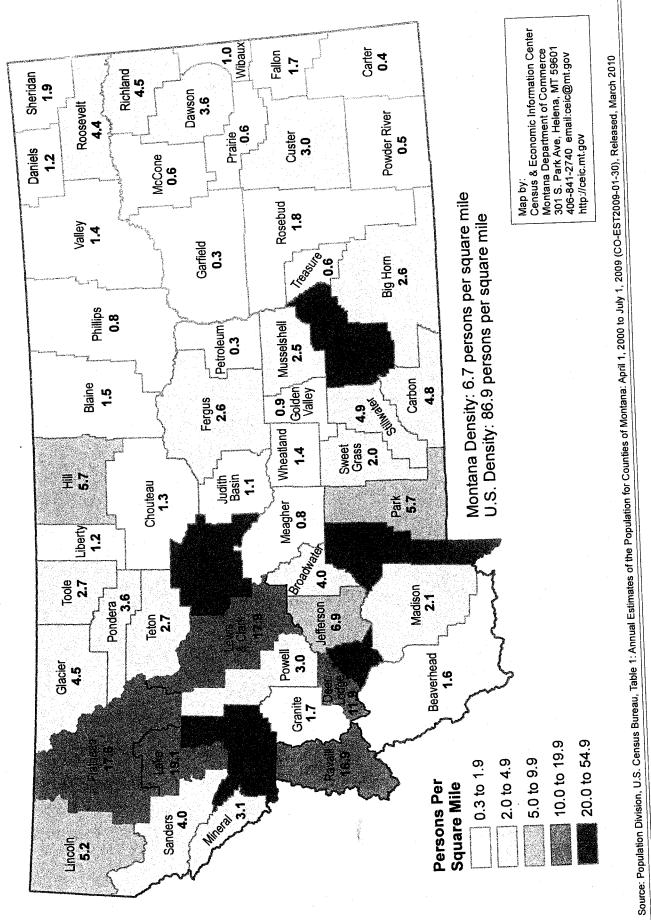


Montana Population Density by County - 2009



April 201 - Co_density_09.mxd



State of Montana Strategic Plan for Information Technology

Introduction

The State of Montana Strategic Plan for Information Technology (Strategic Plan) serves as the voice of the Montana Information Technology Act (MITA), found in Title 2 Chapter 17 Part 5 MCA, and documents the strategies of the State Chief Information Officer (CIO). This Plan is reviewed every two years to identify the goals that will be emphasized. It provides the framework and guidance for state agencies to develop their individual plans for the use of information technology resources. The State IT Strategic Plan also provides accountability to the governor, the legislature, and the citizens of Montana.

This year's Strategic Plan incorporates some new goals and objectives that were not in the 2008 Plan. Goal 1 recognizes the need to involve communities of interest that have similar or related business objectives in IT strategic planning in order to develop IT resources in an effective and efficient manner and provide stable funding for long-term, enterprise-wide IT investments. Goal 2 acknowledges the advantages of implementing common business applications and shared services across governmental units to achieve economies-of-scale and to minimize unnecessary duplication, especially in the areas of security, records management, and new eGovernment and Geographic IT (GIS) Services.

Goals 3 and 4 are from the previous plan. Those goals and objectives continue to be important to the state, and while progress has been made in these areas, we still have a ways to go before identifying them as having been completed. Goal 3 recognizes the continued need to create quality jobs and a favorable business climate through further expansion of Montana's SummitNet Network. Goal 4 acknowledges the continued importance to protect individual privacy and the privacy of information contained within IT systems.

The IT goals and objectives are valid and relevant to the future direction of IT for the state of Montana.

Dick Clark, Montana State CIO.



January 28, 2011

State Administration Committee Montana Senate Helena MT

Re: Senate Bill 188

Senators.

I am General Manager of InterBel Telephone Cooperative located in Eureka, Montana. I would like to express my concerns with SB 188 which you will be considering in the State Administration Committee today.

InterBel has invested millions of dollars in infrastructure in order to deliver communications, broadband, and cable to consumers in both Eureka and rural Eureka, in Lincoln County. This infrastructure is the path not only for voice communications but also for applications such as telehealth, e-learning and distance education, and government services. This infrastructure provides first class connectivity to our communities and our local citizens.

InterBel is an active partner with both government and business entities, and we share the common goals to expand economic opportunities within this isolated and rural area. Local government entities, local businesses, and local citizens are those that know best the needs, challenges and costs for information technology in our area. They are the best resources for sound decisions and policies for matters that affect them in such a direct manner.

I am particularly concerned that the amended and new language proposed in Section 5 of SB188 hands off that local control to the State of Montana, and then empowers the State to determine fees that will be assessed for its services. The State should not be the central coordinator and director for electronic government services and activities beyond those applicable to individual state agencies.

I urge you to vote against SB 188. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Randy Wilson General Manager